

WRESTLING FORUM

JULY 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 14

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
FRANK "BRUISER BRODY" GOODISH

In Memory.....	2
Wrestling Barometer.....	3
American Wrestling Association.....	4
Natinal Wrestling Alliance.....	6
Wrestlers Are People Too.....	8
Pencil Points.....	9
Memphis.....	11
Continental.....	12
Bruiser Brody Tribute.....	13
Class Act/Dipstick Awards.....	16
Calgary.....	17
International Championship Wrestlg.....	17
Global Wrestling Alliance.....	18
World Wrestling Federation.....	19
Pulse on Portland.....	22
World Class.....	23
Results from All Over.....	24
Miscellaneous stuff.....	26

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with

Ed Garea, Sean Grande and Jeff Siegel

Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th & 30th of each month and mailed the follwoing day. Cost is \$1.50 per issue. Copyright (c) Jon Gallagher, 1988 all rights reserved.

IN MEMORY

The news first came in here a little after noon on Sunday, July 17 that Frank Goodish, a.k.a. Bruiser Brody had been killed. My first reaction was first disbelief followed closely by shock. Bob Closson was first in with the news followed shortly thereafter by one of the magazine guys, then wrestlers and fans alike. The news spread quickly and I can honestly say that in the two and a half years that I've done this bulletin, no other news story has shaken fans as much as this.

We were late last time by a fluke. Our postage meter automatically postmarks the mail as we stamp it. Because of this, it must be put in the mail the day it is stamped. Our local post offices close at 3:00 pm on Saturdays and no one is there to process mail until early Monday mornings. We didn't finish the bulletin last time until around 5:00pm on Saturday the 16th, so we had to wait until Monday morning to mail (with postage stamps, we would have dropped it in the mail late Saturday night, but it still wouldn't have been processed until Monday morning). Because of that fluke, we held the bulletin's actual folding and stapling until a leisurely Sunday afternoon. That is what allowed us to get the small insert in last issue to get the news to you as quickly as we could.

From Monday night on, the phone here literally never stopped ringing. As the news spread, fans from all over called to share their grief and their memories. I have dedicated a good portion of this issue to their remembrances.

As for myself, I was never really a big Brody fan. I can and did appreciate his brawling style, and I have no doubt that he was the best in the business at making a match look real. I often wondered how that qualified him for top ten billing. That all seems very unimportant now.

One other note; after consulting with Sean Grande, president of the UAWF, we have invoked the "Roberto Clemente rule" for induction into the UAWF Ring of Immortals and Brody's name (along with Adrian Adonis') will appear on the ballot for consideration by the fans, waving the five year retirement rule.

Welcome back to yet another edition of Wrestling Forum. Sorry for starting off on such a sour note, but if we keep in mind that we should not mourn Bruiser's death, rather celebrate his life, maybe we can be a little more upbeat through the rest of the issue. We welcome those of you tuning in for your first look and hope you like what you see. Wrestling Forum is published on (Or about) the 15th and 30th of each month at a cost of \$1.50 per issue. You can subscribe for upto six months worth (total of 12 issues for \$18.00) or any amount in between.

Please check your bank statements if you sent in a subscription somewhere around six to eight weeks ago. Your subscription was processed but for some unknown reason, our bank (or should I say former bank) can't find any record of a deposit from back then. If they did in fact lose the deposit, then your check would not have been cashed. If a check you wrote here is outstanding, please contact me. Remember, this is from 4-6 weeks ago.

It's not a new typewriter, but the old one fixed. A new printwheel and a little cleaning really helps. Now if I could just convince my fingers and brain to work together....

Enjoy the issue, sit back and relax. We'll check in on the Wrestling Barometer (Post office people are you listening?) with Jeff Siegel before getting on to all the happenings of the past couple of weeks.

revelled in. In other words, the fact that Dusty (who, by the way, is unusually absent from the "Barometer" this month), could be nothing but watch as Vince plucked the POP away, right before the Bashes and turned them into "real", live, imitation Roadies...Interesting that Ronnie Gervin's turn finished so high on the up side. While it's a good angle (though a bit late), it really hasn't had a chance to develop yet as the "Barometer" goes to press. Leads us to believe that the best may be yet to come...Has there been an announcing team in the entire history of wrestling that even remotely comes close to being as horrendous as Superstar Graham and Roger Kent? Looks like "Barometer" readers think not...Very perceptive comment by Steve Meyerson of Brooklyn, NY on Titan's new travel policy: "Haven't they learned anything from the Keith Franke (a.k.a Adrian Adonis) incident, as well as other recent similar tragedies?"

THE DEADLINE FOR AUGUST BAROMETER BALLOTS IS AU AUGUST 22. All entries should be sent to:

Jeff Siegel
P. O. Box 5461
Evanston, IL 60204

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Before getting into news (which there is very little of anyway), there's something that I've wanted to discuss for over a month now, it's just that I keep forgetting to do so.

A caller one night was talking about how wrestlers who go to the AWA always seem to look terrible. One incident in particular was how bad Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka looked as a team. The caller reasoned that here was one of the teams that did very well for themselves in our year end balloting for tag team of the year and they looked pitiful. Their finishing move, the slingshot DDT earned honors as our Finishing move of the Year, yet when they tried it against this team, it not only looked bad, it looked fake. His question was why. Why do wrestlers always quit working when they get here?

They don't. At least not to the point of looking terrible so much. The quality of opponent has a lot to do with it. Here in the AWA they only tape every three or four weeks. That means they only have a chance to work with the jobbers that often. Somewhere like Memphis, they do their weekly show and use the same jobbers week after week so the jobbers get used to working with the stars and vice-versa. In the WWF, they only tape every three weeks, but in most cases, the local jobbers they use are only asked to sell everything the star has for about two and a half minutes, and almost anyone can do that. But in the AWA, it doesn't even look like the two participants have discussed the finish, let alone practiced it. Then again, with the shape they're in, they never know if they are going to have the same jobbers from taping to taping or not.

Wrestlerock II is coming so be forewarned. The tentative date is November 6 in Minneapolis. They have scheduled so far, the Von Erichs, the Freebirds and alot of other stars from other promotions. With the date this far off, a lot can change though, and rest assured, with the AWA's reputation for no shows, the show could be a major disappointment from what they announce.

5

I am being told that Curt Hennig is no longer with the AWA. As the story goes, he felt that he had been double crossed by Verne in regards to the title. You'll remember that about a year ago, he had agreed to terms with Titan (they held up the title between him and Bockwinkel while he decided if he was going to stay or not). When Verne finally broke down and agreed to give him the title, he walked out of his agreement with Titan leaving them extremely perturbed. Curt had been told that Lawler's title reign would be a short one and that he would have his AWA strap back soon. But soon has turned into nearly three months and each time Curt asked about getting it back, they had another reason why he couldn't. At first, it didn't matter because he was on guarantee with Verne. Memphis had agreed to take over the payments on the guarantee as long as Lawler had the title. That didn't last long as Memphis wasn't too excited about paying someone who only worked for them once a month or so, so they quit issuing checks. The AWA isn't in any position to keep up Curt's weekly salary, especially when they aren't running any shows (or not enough to make any kind of a difference). So Curt had to make a decision and the decision was to offer his services to Titan. That is where he'll end up, I believe, as I was told that as of last Monday, he had signed the contract with them. I keep remembering what I was told by my Titan source last year when he said, "Curt Hennig won't be invited back, even to do jobs for Terry Gibbs."

Not much going on on the last set of TV tapings from Las Vegas. Ricky Rice and John Paul will not be known as the new Midnight Rockers, rather they will assume the name of the old Rice-Derrick Dukes tag team from Sharkey's group, the Top Guns.

Brandi Mae is now seconding Cousin Luke to the ring. Her outfit leaves very little to the imagination, if you know what I mean. Cousin Luke, however, didn't make it to the TV tapings on the 16th of July but they are still claiming he's around.

I got an official press release from the AWA offices (they are being somewhat cooperative) and it was sort of funny, unintentionally so. In one paragraph they refer to Jerry Lawler "bending the rules" in his title defenses against Curt Hennig. Classic Kay Fabe. The next paragraph talks about the new lead babyface tag team. Granted, this only goes out to insiders (I think), but it was almost like reading the conflicting styles of Wrestling Eye.

Medusa Miceli will be featured in an upcoming issue of Playboy magazine and from what I understand, she'll be wearing less than Brandi Mae, if that's possible. She reminds me of girls in high school who were nice to look at, but once they opened their mouth, guys started taking off in droves.

Jimmy Valiant is reportedly coming in, or at least rumored to be. Right now, he's spending more time helping run his wife's flower shop than anything else.

On a related subject to the AWA, the cooperation between promotions is rapidly deteriorating. Already Central States is running on their won and the cooperation between the main AWA and places like World Class is having to be handled by a surrogate Memphis group. It's to the point where not only do fans not take Verne seriously, but even his staunchest defenders within the business are starting to shake their heads. That's probably why the Wrestlerock thing will either be Verne's last chance at success, or a complete flop from lack of cooperation.

By the way, if you can believe this, Verne is going to try PPV on this one...

6

•NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE•

Before we get into any juicy details of a Ted Turner takeover, there's a little unfinished business from last time regarding the Pay Per View show. We'll get to the numbers in a second, but there are two stories circulating about the championship match that both bear repeating.

The first story is how the commission was "worked" into the finish. One source tells me that the commission was not let in on the finish ahead of time. Supposedly, Dusty knew the Maryland rules on blading and how it was banned. He knew the history of how they would stop a match at the first sign of blood. They knew as soon as the first dribble of blood started down Luger's forehead, they would stop the match. Luger knew this too and since he's not a big fan of the blade, especially when it's his forehead in question, so he made sure he didn't get too deep with the cut. I ask what would have happened if the commission had not stopped the match and I was told they had another ending all lined up just in case, but they felt that they knew the commission well enough that they wouldn't have to use it. You'll notice on the tape how the commissioner is up almost as soon as Luger got up off the floor with the juice.

Now you can believe that one if you want, or you can believe this one. A ringsider, positioned at exactly the right position saw JJ Dillon motioning to the commissioner as soon as Luger cut himself. There wasn't a drop of blood on Luger at the time. This version comes from someone who talked with the wrestlers afterward and seems to be the one most readily agreed upon. But, who knows? You've got a choice now, so pick out the right answer...one of them's got to be right.

The "juicy" details never materialized...only a BUNCH of rumors from the past couple of weeks. I had been told that the buyout was complete, but the official word is that nothing has been finalized. Things like this take a whole lot of time. I've heard everything from there being a complete agreement and the takeover to take place on September 1 to there being no agreement and a hostile takeover by Turner was going to be the way it goes. I don't know what is holding things up other than the fact that (as I mentioned earlier) it takes a whole lot of time. When we bought our house, it took nearly two months just for paperwork to be approved and everything and buying a house is much simpler than buying a business, especially a sports franchise.

Meanwhile, the Bash tour continues to do well. Most cities are drawing in the 5000-8000 range and some are even popping crowds of 10,000 plus. This of course is leading the Crockett family to believe that things are indeed turning around. The raised ticket prices are helping to further that illusion. Shows the magnitude of a Bash show should pop big crowds, even bigger than these. The real test will be to see what kind of crowds they are able to draw AFTER the Bash tour.

The main problem may be being able to hold on to talent. There is a lot of disention between the boys over payments. The deal he had with the boys was a guaranteed yearly contract, for example 24,000 per year (these are figures just for easy computation). But, Crockett would only pay the guys, say \$1000 a month (\$12,000 a year). There was a "balloon" payment due of the balance owed (in our hypothetical case 12,000). The balloon payments owed to the wrestlers add up to quite a chunk of change and Crockett has been stalling several on theirs. Some have said they have waited long enough. Others said they would wait as long as the PPV, show then quit. It may take a while for the payday from the PPV to come, but that should make up quite a bit of them. If not, Turner isn't going to have much left to buy.

Other than all that, there's not a whole lot going on at this point. With the Bash tour running so long, they aren't over burdening us with angles. Ron Garvin's turn is quickly headed into the garbage and save

Midnight Express-Tully/Arn feud that is coming up, there's really very little to be excited about.

Flair and Luger continue to have a war of word which is nothing to write home about (much less in a newsletter). They will headline across the country as soon as the Bash is over. I hear that Flair will retain the title through a series of screw job endings that will leave fans in the different cities thinking that the only way Flair can remain champ is to get DO'd or to be protected by the promotion. This may destroy what drawing poser he has left.

The Road Warriors need something to boost themselves back into some sort of spotlight. No one believes that old man Ivan and the Russian Angel have any sort of a chance against them. New talent is needed to be their opponents. No move has been made to secure any.

About the most interesting thing will be the Midnight Express-Tully/Arn feud as both teams will remain heels and the fans will be left to choose for themselves who to cheer for. Dusty appears to be slanting the fans toward the Express without anyone really being able to tell. The reason I say that is because Jim Cornette is the one pushing for the matches to be signed while JJ Dillon pretty much tries to ignore him. Good matches are virtually guaranteed, but the process of getting them signed is taking forever. We have learned one thing however, already, and that is that Bobby Eaton, can in fact TALK! I wouldn't consider the two or three sentences he spoke on a recent syndicated interview the signs of a great interview in the making, but he did disprove the theory that he was mute. To further push the feud along, they are letting us in on a secret that they have kept to themselves, that being that Bobby Eaton and Arn Anderson are best friends. Never mentioned before, they are mentioning it at least four times per hour now. Cornette on his interviews, is having fun as he finally gets to verbally attack someone besides Dusty. We all know Dusty Bashing can be one of the more entertaining pastimes among wrestling fans, but it has to get old after a while.

Dusty and Ron Garvin look like they will also have a series of matches, although I think I would have rather seen some sort of a conflict between Jimmy and Ron, even if it were just a one week thing. Jimmy has not commented on the turn yet and to get Ron over more as a heel, he needs to smack Jimmy or even Precious before he goes into a feud with the Dream. Surprisingly, the announcers are telling us that Ron's style hasn't changed a bit. Funny when just a few months ago, they loved that "illegal punch" and that stupid Garvin Stomp.

The best we can tell is that the PPV did somewhere between 1.7 % and 2.0% on a national basis. There were a couple of different services that offered the event and one of them is feeling their numbers and the other one isn't. We can only assume that it did the same (or about the same) on both services. Crockett is claiming 4.0%, but they were claiming that before it even aired. That's called living up to your own hype.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

This issue's Wrestlers are People Too takes a look at from both the WWF and NWA while both were in Philadelphia on the same night running head to head shows. Our guest columnist has chosen to remain nameless.

TED DIBIASE...Very open and seemed anxious to catch up with old friend Steve Williams. He talked about his character, the Million Dollar Man in a third person perspective. Smiles were common when mentioning matches from his past, especially great ones.

RIC FLAIR...completely a gentleman. Saw Greg Valentine and talked with him for a while. Flair was completely out of character in the hotel lobby though he did "put on his character" a couple of times in the bar.

VIRGIL...had some family there from the Pittsburgh area. To me, he denied ever being Soul Train, but while I talked with him, a family member came up and called him "Soul Train" which made him roll his eyes and laugh.

DUSTY RHODES...Polite to a point, but a very short one. One on one, he was grumpy (approached him coming out of a bar) and when some younger fans saw him and yelled, he went into character and got out of there as fast as he could. Smiling as he waved at them from a distance, he was cussing them out loud.

JIM CORNETTE....As funny as you would expect him to be. Posed for a couple of pictures but was anxious to go with some guy I didn't recognize he called Dennis the Menace and another guy.

GREG VALENTINE...aloof and cautious. wasn't impolite, but wanted nothing to do with anyone outside the business.

STEVE WILLIAMS...When told Ted was looking for him, he said, "Yeah. Maybe he wants to pay back the million dollars I started him off with." Someone actually called him Doctor Dentyne and he didn't even rip their head off. Maybe you're safe after all.

*P*E*N*C*I*L P*O*I*N*T*S*

A TITAN TURNOFF

I have been following WWF wrestling for a good twelve years now, gaining and losing respect for the along the way, but these ridiculous gimmicks are really getting on my nerves. My friends have been following it as well and together we have comprised a partial list (top 7) of the absolute worst ideas over the past couple of months (we could have made a list of about 30).

1. Brother Love Segment
2. The crowning of the new King, King Haku
3. George Steele's Mine doll
4. The Dino Bravo/Ken Patera feuds
5. Allowing Brutus Beefcake to talk in interviews
(I don't know who stutters more, him or Dr. Death)
6. Sean Mooney Event Center reports
7. Madison Square Garden commentary by Rodger Kent, Superstar Billy Graham, and Lord Alfred Hayes

Unless McMahon can come up with some new and original material for the remained of 1988, he's going to lose a lot of fan support.

-DAN SCHNITZER-
-Baltimore, MD-

REMEMBERING BRODY

What a tragic loss to the sport of wrestling. He had his own unique style of boots, bark, fan appeal and ability. I will always remember the heat generated in St. Louis in the early 1980 when he would battle Dick the Bruiser inside and outside the ring. It would be nice if Crockett would dedicate some part of a show to his memory. I will miss him and I'm sure others will as well.

-JIM COOK-
-Mt Auburn, IL-

NWA PAY PER VIEW BASH

Some thoughts on the Maryland Athletic commission/blood/Luger situation: 1) I see what happened in Calgary with them switching bookers and announcing how they were becoming more "family oriented." Read: No blood! How do the marks feel about the fact that a promotion can seemingly order its werestlers to stop bleeding on command? 2) The NWA has basically destroyed Baltimore as a future site for major PPV and title matches since all future decisions will be "tainted" and fans will be waiting for the "old screw job" ending, even more than they already do. 3) What happens when somebody gets cut accidentally or inadvertantly pops some scar tissue and starts juicing before they can run the finish? Aren't they now trapped into stopping matches at the first drop of juice, at least in Baltimore? 4) When will wrestling get state of the art and start using the advanced special FX technology to simulate bleeding? "Blood splashes" are a proven (if desultory) cause of AIDS infection and, ket's face it, the vast majority of fans and even most marks already believe wrestlers use blood capsules. I think this is just a typical wrestling hang up. It's weird to think about guys who wear women's robes and make up (is Max Paine the Tammy Baker of pro wrestling or what?) as being macho but they obviously are.

-BILL KUNKEL-
-Woodhaven, NY-

MARKS AND ANGLES MANIFESTO

Many smart fans seem to think they should withhold their inside information from the "Marks." I consider that attitude to be brimming with condescending, pretentious snobbery. It's as if these 2500 or so insiders think they're some higher classes "keepers of the flame", privy to special knowledge that they must guard from the Marks. Many wrestling fans aren't marks and most who aren't won't collapse from this burden of awareness of pro wrestlings inner workings.

I've ascertained that when I give out inside information at the matches, the fans have an unquenchable thirst for it. They can't get enough. They love it just as we insiders do. Do you really think that any fans actually believe the Road Warriors' real names are Hawk and Animal or that it would hurt their careers if their real names were revealed? I believe that awareness of wrestling as a work will give the great majority of fans more enjoyment from the matches.

The word mark, like most inside wrestling terms, is derived from wrestling's early days as a carnival attraction. The term "mark" infers more than just lack of awareness of wrestling's workings. More accurately, these people are suckers to be conned. "Carney" people are fly-by-night hustlers who get off on the duplicity. The term mark shows total disrespect for the paying customer. The Crockett and McMahon families have roots dating back wrestling's early days and still treat customers as the contemptuous mark

The contradiction to this is a disingenuous Stossel type who in reality hate wrestling, ridicules it, calling it fake. The fans should ignore these insecure, pompous schmucks. When wrestling is exposed by an insider, it's by someone who loves wrestling and it just enlightens the fans.

The people in the business dislike insiders and newsletters because they give away the con, not because they cause them to lose money. In actuality, they generate more interest in the business. I believe most fans could become insiders and enjoy wrestling even more by understanding its inner workings. We should spread the word, show our smartness and maybe the promoters will give up the con and promote as Watts did, or Japan does.

-DORE DEQUATTRO-

-Howard Beach, NY-

EDITOR: One comment. The promoters equate us exposing the business, giving away the con with their loss at the gate. The truth is, knowledgeable fans buy tickets just like everyone else, but more importantly, they buy tickets even to LOUSY shows because of their love for the business. There is no doubt that some "smart" fans should have the word "ass" added between smart and fan though.

DiBIASE BETTER THAN FLAIR

The recent Pay Per View from Baltimore proved once and for all in my mind that Ted DiBiase is a better wrestler than Ric Flair and should be ranked above him by smart fans. Flair has yet to change his routine. He follows the same damn script every single night. Can you imagine Jim Cornette coming out and doing the exact same interview each week? In that situation, even if it were one of Jim's best efforts (the one where he went after Dusty and his family - Federal Express - comes immediately to mind) it would get old after three weeks worth. Yet smart fans continue to hold Ric Flair on a pedestal while ignoring the fact that night after night, Ted DiBiase goes out, works his butt off, and changes his routine from opponent to opponent (sure he has the same matches against Savage from town to town, but Flair does the same thing no matter who he's wrestling). Don't get me wrong, Flair is good and probably the number two choice (I've not seen Owen Hart or the Japanese), but Ted is head and shoulders above him.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

MEMPHIS

Robert Fuller continues to make Dusty Rhodes look humble as he dominates the TV show, involving himself in literally every single angle and feud. This got old after a week and this has gone on for about six of them now.

Brickhouse Brown has joined the Stud's stable and they are calling him Bunkhouse Brown now. He comes out smoking a cigar and dressed sort of like a cowboy and he gets upset when they call him "boy" (they always explain "COW boy, Brickhouse! COW boy!"). Since Bruno is aligned with the stable, there is a natural conflict (not behind the scenes) between Brickhouse and Bruno. You'll remember it was less than a year ago that Brickhouse had Bruno dressing up in a court jester's outfit and shining his shoes. Bruno keeps letting the word "boy" slip which would tend to indicate a babyface turn is in Brown's future. During a TV match with Billy Travis, Bruno handed him a loaded glove, but the referee caught it and DQ'd Brown. I thought this might lead to something, but nothing so far.

Jeff Jarrett continues to feud with Fuller (who else) and they have turned Tojo Yamamoto and Senshi heel on Jeff. It happened during a Monday night card where Jeff and Senshi took on Fuller and Golden. The whole match only lasted a couple of minutes and it was Jeff destroying the heels with his cast. Senshi never got in the ring. After the ring had been cleared, Senshi hit Jeff with a karate kick and the whole stable came in and beat him up. Tojo used the kendo stick and they broke the cast on his arm. Tojo has turned so many times now you'd think he was a shiskabob.

With Fuller dominating so much, you have to wonder why they waste Bruno with him. Bruno does an excellent interview and Fuller is a loud mouth that can get by on his own. Usually they have a manager for a wrestler because he can't get over on his own interviews (witness Bobby Eaton and Jim Cornette). They are short on talent and they want to keep Bruno around because he does draw some money, but still...instead of Fuller getting involved in absolutely everything, why not split up the heels into two heel groups with Fuller in charge of one and Bruno in charge of the other. They could still work together, but it would separate the feuds. Then again, the way they are doing it right now makes it easy for the fans of the area to keep track of things. Fuller's the heel ad whoever isn't in his bunch is a babyface.

Phil Hickerson looks like he'll be feuding with Max Pain over the CWA title. Hickerson is currently the champion here having beaten Paine for the title. Hickerson came out and announced that his TV bout on one particular show would be for the title. He took on rookie Shawn Baxter (a Rod Stewart look alike) and used a chain for the win. Max came out to make sure they didn't inflict further damage and issued the obligatory challenges. Later in the show, Pain was wrestling and Hickerson came out to taunt him. Max quickly pinned his opponent then charged out of the ring and behind the curtains, chasing Hickerson assumably, back to the dressing room.

Jerry Lawler has been featured quite a bit as of late. He is defending the AWA title all over, so he doesn't spend a lot of time in Memphis. Instead, they keep the fans reminded by extensively using videos of him. He came out and did one interview and lo and behold, one of those brawls that Memphis is famous for broke out. Leading up to it, Jerry did his best Johnny Carson impression with a "How ugly is Silvia" monologue ("Silvia's so skinny that when she turns sideways, you can't see her. Then when she turns front ways, you wish she's turn sideways. If it weren't for her acne, she'd have no shape at all."). She came out to distract him while Fuller (who else) stuck his nose in and the brawl was on. Fuller and Lawler went at it for a while until Silvia threw

powder in Lawler's face. Jeff Jarrett came out and joined in with his cast and Lawler quickly recovered to help him out once Silvia had jumped on his back. He took Silvia to the ring and got her up in position for a piledriver when Senshi and Tojo did a run in to make the save. Lawler and Jarrett got the worst end of the deal until Travis, Baxter and Pain came out to clear the ring.

Financial News Network presented a special show to honor Jerry and his reign as AWA champion. They showed some of the great matches from his career including one with Harley Race. Jerry made mention of the other so called World Champions, but noted that they only defend the title against people in their own promotion while he travels to other areas to defend.

The calls are coming in fast and furious! Looks like we may have a better turn out than I ever dreamed possible for the UAWF Memphis convention. The promotion is as excited as I am about hosting the first convention and they tell me they will be sure and have something special planned for us. They recently hosted a group from Philadelphia and I understand it was a success. We hope to see you in Memphis as well, but as noted in the flyers, you only have until AUGUST 13 to get your deposit in to hold a spot for you. Dates, one more time, are OCTOBER 7 through 11 (no activities are planned for the 11th, just checkout) Dues to the UAWF for one year are \$15.00 and the address is Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402.

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Very little news out of here due to FNN pre emptying the program for the past couple of weeks. The people at FNN assure me that after the middle of next month, that will change. The agreement up to now has been that whenever the Saturday night Memphis show is preempted, Memphis then preempts the Continental show. From now on, if Memphis is preempted, it will just be preempted as Continental will stay on Sunday nights. The first show back will let us in on all the angles we've been missing while they've been gone.

Meanwhile, they are looking to crown a new CWF champion. There are some other wrestlers headed in for the tournament including Bob Orton and Bam Bam Bigelow. Bigelow is interesting as he quit Titan and will work here sporadically while touring Japan.

Missy Hyatt has had to step into the role of a babyface quite unexpectedly. In a feud between Tom Pritchard and Dirty White Boy Tony Anthony, Anthony was scheduled to have his valet Mystic at ringside with him and in some mixed tag matches against Pritchard and Bambi. The problem occurred when Bambi agreed to dates that were about a month down the road and the promotion had things scheduled now. So, because Bambi couldn't make the current dates, Missy has had to fill in. I doubt if she remains a face for long as she just doesn't come off well as one. I look for her to turn on Pritchard somehow and possibly start a feud with Tom and Eddie Gilbert.

Jerry Lawler has cut down on his title defenses here to a certain extent. He will be back from time to time, and as a matter of fact, is in the CWF tournament.

One final note, the new tag champs out of here are Shane Douglas and Humongous who won the titles from the Drill Master and Private Pile. Detroit Demolition had been one half of the champs, but Pile had to sub for him when Demolition was "injured."

Lots from here next time as the shows begin again on FNN this week.

MEMORIES OF A LEGEND

In any story that is as clouded in controversy as this one, all of the details may never be clearly understood, even by those who were present on the fateful night of July 16, 1988. As nearly as we can, we've tried to sort the fact from the fiction, and put into a reasonable account, the story behind the stabbing murder of Frank "Bruiser Brody" Goodish. This is, I believe, the most accurate story we could piece together.

Brody had agreed to wrestle for Carlos Colon's World Wrestling Council on a short term basis. He was also scheduled for dates both with World Class and Windy City Wrestling later on in the month, so his stay here was to be a short one.

He was scheduled to go against "Dangerous" Danny Spivey on a card in Bayamon, Puerto Rico on 7/16. Jose Gonzales, Colon's booker, had gone to Brody and asked him to do what would have basically been a squash match for Spivey. Brody refused in typical Brody fashion. Gonzales would not budge from his request, nor would Brody. What happened next is where most of the stories differ.

Some say that Brody had packed his bags and was in the process of leaving. Others say that Brody was in a heated argument with Colon. Allegedly, Gonzales approached Brody with a knife, hidden by a folded towel. He then allegedly stabbed Brody twice (some say as many as eight) in the stomach. Brody collapsed, and the story becomes more clouded.. First reports were that Brody layed on the dressing room floor for an hour before anyone helped him. More recent reports agree that he was indeed attended to immediately, however, it took more than an hour for an ambulance to arrive to take him to a hospital.

Brody was taken then, to a local hospital where, once again, precious time was lost. Most reports agree that Brody was left unattended in the hospital for almost another hour before he was taken into surgery. Brody died at 4:30 am local time, on the operating table. Cause of death was listed as bile poisoning as one of the wounds punctured his liver, the deadly bile spreading slowly, but nonetheless, deadly.

Gonzales was arrested the next day on first degree murder charges. Police in Puerto Rico have released very little information regarding the case and the amounts of Gonzales' bail has varried from \$120,000 (as reported by the Associated Press) and \$2,000,000 as reported by other wrestling personel close to the situation. It was reported that Gonzales made bail and was back wrestling with Colon's help. Gonzales wrestles under a mask as Invader I.

Brody is survived by a wife and a son who is less than ten years old.

I can honestly say that while I have been doing a wrestling bulletin, no other story has had the impact that this one has had. The first reports started coming in here Sunday afternoon with the first word from Bob Closson. Reports continued to come in from almost everywhere. By Sunday night, the rumors had spread and people were calling to confirm their worst fears. The phone continued to ring at all hours over the next few days. Fans called to share their grief, their memories, and their prayers.

I don't think I need to waste the space in commenting on how stupid or senseless Brody's death was. I will not comment on my feelings toward Jose Gonzales, Brody's alleged murderer.

What I will comment on is the possible repercussions that have yet to be felt through the wrestling world. Brody's basic rebel attitude made him several enemies over his years in the business. It also made him countless friends. Those friendships will endure all, and only be strengthened by Brody's death. People like John Nord, Stan Hansen, Sam DiCero, Ted DiBiase, Jimmy Snuka, Abdullah the Butcher and more had formed tremendously strong bonds with Bruiser. Many fans and wrestlers that I have talked to speculate that one or more of these men may "volunteer" to work a couple of matches in Puerto

Rico, providing they're against the right opponents.

Other rumors circulate that there may be a conspiracy involved, one that is meant to send a message to the rest of the wrestling world that you don't mess with that part of the world. Those remain speculation and will probably be dismissed as the vengeful thoughts of those close to Brody.

As for the repercussions that may be long term, I expect that the WWF will undergo some tough times. It would not surprise me if the promotion folded within the year. As for the rest of wrestling, this one particular instance could threaten to completely blow the lid off the sport. The wire services were limited in what they were reporting, however, had they picked up on the fact of what the argument was over, they could have had a field day with it. Had this happened in the United States, be assured, the media would have ripped wrestling into so many pieces, promoters may not ever have been able to sew things together again.

Where all this will lead is anybody's guess at this point. It is far from over.

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The outlook for Jose Gonzales is promising. At least from beating a murder rap. I have it on good authority that Gonzales will claim "self defense" when he comes to trial. This may get him off.

Put yourself in the place of a jury. Naturally, defense lawyers will make sure that no wrestling fan is seated on the jury. Then, the defense will put on a case based on a much smaller Gonzales defending himself against a 6'8", 350 pound maniac-foreigner. With Brody's past reputation, it shouldn't be hard to convince a jury that he was a bit crazy. I'm sure you can see that the prosecution is going to have a tough time pinning a first degree (which translates to "premeditated") murder on Gonzales. Without that charge, perhaps the best the "state" can hope for would be an involuntary manslaughter charge that could be reached through plea bargaining.

With this bit of speculation, Gonzales could be back wrestling sooner than anyone expected with a reputation preceeding him that would be second to none. But if this happens, I think it would be safe to say that sometime in the near future, Mr. Gonzales might be the unfortunate victim of a ring accident. His best decision he could make at this point would be to retire from the business while he can still walk.

..... THE MEMORIES

Fans and promoters alike have spent the better part of the past couple of weeks sharing their memories of Bruiser Brody with me, some openly breaking down on the phone when speaking with a combination of love and respect. Here are some of the memories they thought I'd like to share with you:

"Frank was open, honest and straightforward. If his timing was off and I'd mention it to him, he was grateful and respected me for telling him to his face, and not behind his back." PROFESSOR ELLIOT MARON - Brooklyn, NY.

"Brody always took time to talk with and play with my son. We affectionately called him 'Uncle Frank' or 'Uncle Bruiser' which he always got a kick out of. He never failed to call me or my son by name and he always listened, no matter how trivial of thing my son wanted to talk about. When treated with respect, he returned it tenfold." NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST - Los Angeles, CA.

"I don't think that I ever introduced anyone new to Bruiser that wasn't intimidated by him at first. He seemed to enjoy that respect that he commanded yet he was quick to wipe away a stranger's apprehensions once he found out the new acquaintance was 'okay'." Magazine writer - parts unknown.

"This man did not like to do jobs, period. Even when he first started, he didn't want to lay down for anybody. When he first came to the WWF he didn't even want to do jobs for Bruno! Bruno, for God's sake! Nobody questioned doing a job for Bruno at that time, but Brody did. Now Brody ended up doing his series of jobs, but he wasn't happy about it and it wasn't

long before Brody took off." ED GAREA

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Others offered their favorite Brody stories. Because of the nature of these stories, I've just put them together and will not credit any one person. Most of the people would want their names withheld anyway.

I remember Brody exerting his power one night with an independent promoter. He had worked the card before an average sized crowd and everyone was happy. Brody went to get his payoff and he found the check was for only half what it was supposed to be. Brody brought this to the attention of the promoter who weakly passed it off as "tough luck." At this point, Brody threatened to kick in the promoter's face. The promoter responded with some veiled threats about some underground figures hunting Brody down. Brody smiled and said, "Yeah, but your face will still be kicked in...tonight." Brody got the other half.

Lex Luger will no doubt remember Brody very well. Luger was wrestling out his contract in Florida as a babyface just before jumping to the Crockett organization. The Florida group was still a few months away from being bought by Crockett and the loss of Luger was going to be one of the things that killed it. Luger was to face Brody in a cage with Brody playing the heel role. The match went pretty much as expected through half of it. Then Brody started landing a few hard kicks on Luger. Brody would later explain that what he was doing was nothing different from what he did in Japan "to those little Japs" all the time. Finally, he caught Luger in an arm bar with a twist. The twist part was put on a little harder than usual, so much so that a surprised Luger turned around and said "HEY! THAT HURT!" loud enough that the first four rows of fans at ringside heard it. When Luger got loose, he realized that he might be in a shooting match and he walked. Out of the cage, straight to the dressing room where he didn't even take time to shower or dress. He left the arena in his wrestling gear a little wiser, but a lot more scared than when he had entered.

Brody had a respect for knowledgeable fans most of the time. A big fan of the Wrestling Observer he would usually stop and talk with those fans who let him know they were also readers. One night in Chicago, things were a little different. Two fans approached him after an AWA card seeking autographs. Brody put on his ring persona and pushed past them. One called out to him, "C'mon Bruiser! Meltzer says you're not that bad of a guy!" Brody stopped dead in his tracks and turned around with a big smile on his face. "Yeah," he said, "Tell Meltzer to shove it!" Then with the smile still there, "Have a nice day boys!" and he continued to his car and drove off.

Frank had a passion for the smaller independent promotions. There he could call his own shots for the most part without fear of someone making unreasonable demands of him. Before he left for Puerto Rico, he called several of the promoters he worked for from time to time. He told each of them his plans for the next month or so so that they could plan their matches and schedules around him. One promoter commented to him that he had been working Puerto Rico quite a bit lately. He agreed and justified his working down there by saying, "Colon really knows how to take care of you. I like working there. He's about as upfront and honest guy as there is in the business. We'll see ya when I get back."

Good-bye Bruiser. We're gonna miss you.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH July 1988

We have a few worthy entries this time around so let's get right to the runners up. First on the list is Mr. Vince McMahon. Last issue we had heard that he was starting to take up a collection for the Adonis' family that would tide them over until insurance money came through. This was certainly a noble gesture and one worthy of a Class Act award... if we were sure it had happened. I talked with a couple of wrestlers who had been in contact with Vince since Adrian's accident and they tell me that he has not mentioned it to them (about the collection and would they like to contribute). This may have been a rumor, but it came from a highly reliable source.

Second runner up goes to Buddy Landell who led a walkout of American wrestlers from the WWF in Puerto Rico the night after Brody died. Colon was giving a "Win one for the Gipper" type speech when Landell had had enough and he walked out, several American wrestlers following him out the door. We feel that Landell's courage deserves recognition.

This month's winner goes to Eddie Sharkey, and possibly a whole group of independent promoters who are taking time to dedicate their wrestling cards to the memory of Bruiser Brody. Part of the proceeds from the shows are going into a trust fund for Brody's son and to help the family with expenses. It's nice to see promoters who benefited from Brody during his life returning some of the favors in death.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH July 1988

I think you can all understand my skipping over Jose Gonzales and Carlos Colon for these "honors" this month. The dipstick is reserved for an achievement of lesser magnitude and usually given tongue in cheek. These two will have to be judged by a much higher court and are undeserving of any respect (or lack of) here in these pages.

However, the dipstick of the month does revolve around Bruiser Brody's death. On Tuesday, July 19, Lon Grahne of the Chicago Sun Times printed an obituary for Brody. An afternoon DJ on WLUP-FM in Chicago picked up the story.

One thing you should understand about this radio personality; Steve Dahl hates everything. He's one of those guys who can't find good in anything, except of course, himself. He started making fun of both the obit and of Grahne. He made sure that people knew that Roger Ebert's boss (Roger is the famous film critic) was the one who had written and approved the wrestler's obituary. He said stuff that was derogatory in nature about Brody and actually laughed about the stabbing. The phone lines lit up from irate callers and the station manager finally pulled the plug, telling the guy to cut it out. The DJ, Steve Dahl, changed the subject quickly, but unfortunately, not before the damage was done.

I don't mind television and radio personalities making fun of wrestling on the air. Wrestling lends itself to this type of thing easily on its own, especially the wrestling presented by the WWF circa 1985 (and some claim even still). But to make fun of someone who died, especially one who died doing something he loved is inexcusably stupid. Perhaps letters to the general manager of WLUP-FM (Chicago's number one FM station) would curtail this type of farce in the future. For now, we award the coveted DIPSTICK to Steve Dahl, who personifies the meaning of the word through his childish tirade.

17

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
by Jeff Bowdren

Another exciting set of TV tapings took place on 7/23 in Pompano Beach. Actually, the most interesting stuff at the tapings was going on behind the scenes, but that involves something I can't talk about in this report. Let's just say that if the GWA was a campground, there wouldn't be a lot of happy campers. On to the tapings.

Some new faces appeared. Hector Guerrero (heel), Ricky Santana (face) and the Original Thing from World Class, who now has his hair painted yellow with a streak of blue down the middle. This guy is doing some serious damage to his hair! The biggest angle revolved around the tag belts, which went from Rusty Brooks and Jumbo Baretta to the Soul Patrol, Johnny "Ram Man" Evans and Soul Man Alex Gee. Baretta did the job after getting tripped by Professor Boris Malenko. After the match, Rusty and Hector were riding Jumbo about costing them the belts. Ricky comes out and tells Jumbo he doesn't have to put up with that and basically appeals to his "latin pride." Jumbo says nothing and walks off the set. The next hour, there's a match between Rusty and Santana. During the match, Hector runs in and they start double teaming. Jumbo comes to ringside with a pair of knucks and at the last minute, hits Rusty and Hector instead of Ricky. The last hour was supposed to see a tag match with Jumbo and Ricky against Rusty and Hecotr. Ricky came out alone, saying that Jumbo had disappeared. "Where's Jumbo?" Rusty and Hector start calling out. Joe Malenko comes out and agrees to be Ricky's aprtner for the match. At about the 3:00 point, Tom Nash comes running in to the studio from outside, shirt torn and head bloody. "He got away, Rusty!" Seconds later, Jumbo comes crashing through the exit door with bloody everywhere and proceeds to clear the ring of the heels. Rusty, Hector and Nash form the RAT PACK. I can see the ads already for Ricky and Jumbo calling the the "Cuban Connection" or something like that!

Lead babyface Steve Collins was at the tapings, but out of action with a bad knee. He will apparently be in charge of the Thing who made his big entrance from a box à la George Steele in Atlanta a few years back. The entrance was greeted with a deafening silence from the crowd. But the good news is that Supervalet, Anne Marie, everyone's favorite Penthouse modle, was back! Her appearance was very brief (no pun intended) but the crowd had no doubt as to who it was. Collins is still involved in a feud with Lord Norman. Interesting occurance at the tapings; Norman was doing a run in during a Death Row squash match and as he was preparing to do an elbow drop off the top rope onto some jobber, a fan jumped up onto the ring apron and grabbed hold of his leg. I thought for a minute Lord Norman was going to fall over backwards. The fan let go and ran away laughing with Norman walking after him. The guy gets to the exit doors and finds that it's locked!!! Luckily for him, a local law enforcement officer was standing right there and decided to intervene before Norman got charged with a felony. Why do these phycho fans pick on a guy who wrestles for the UWF in Japan?

Dean Malenko has apparently left the group and will no longer wrestle on a full time basis. We understand he has taken a job in the travel industry. Brother Joe won the GWA junior heavyweight title at the tapings by virtue of a win by DQ over Hector Guerrero. This match was the best on the tapings.

FLASH...This just in...Rusty Brooks, Global's lead heel has been fired. No details as to why, but a full report next issue.

CALGARY STAMPEDE by Trent Walters

Since they did not have any shows until July 22 in Calgary. Because that, they did double tapings 6/17 and 6/24 as well as a taping on 6/22 in Red Deer, Alberta.

Chris Benoit and John Smith have been feuding over the Junior Heavyweight strap. Smith beat Chris 6/10 to win it, but the rematch with English rules on 6/17, Chris won it back, but the ref was supposed to reverse the decision and John would still be the champ. So they decided somewhere between 6/17 and 6/22 that the belt was held up. So in Red Deer on 6/22, Smith was supposed to beat Chris for the strap but the ref screwed up again and DQ'd someone so Smith had to win it back 6/24 in Calgary. This is going to screw up the marks because the 6/22 taping is going to air after the 6/24 tapings. I hope everyone understands this.

Kerry Brown finished his feud with Gama Singh with a Coal Miner's Glove match that ended with Makhan Singh taking the glove and hitting Gama by mistake which gave Brown the win. However, Brown was fired July 15.

That so called TV tournament to find a #1 contender which was won by Steve Blackman, who is currently feuding with Steve DiSalvo.

Brian Pillman returned from arm injury on 7/10 in Edmonton, but he is still hurting.

The All Japan Ladies World Title was won on 7/10 in Edmonton by Mika Komatsu when she reversed a superplex and cross body blocked former champ Yumi Ogura in mid air, great move.

Although this is a moot point, Adrian Adonis would have started July 22 in Calgary.

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## ICW REPORT BY DAVE SINDEN

International Championship Wrestling is one of the up and coming independents in North America today. Their exposure is behind only Titan and Crockett in syndication with 26 uhf/vhf stations, 40 local cable access stations, plus national exposure on Tempo cable and Madison Square Garden cable.

Recent action in Brewer, ME saw before an international audience new tag team champions Jumping (Joe Savoldi and Vic Steamboat (the S+S Express) defeated Moondog Spike and the Dungeon Master when Tony Atlas caused the pin on Dungeon Master. Also in Brewer, The Cheetah Kid pinned Eric Sbraccia to win the ICW light heavyweight title.

Moondog Spike continues to reign as heavyweight champ. His recent title defenses have been against Rocky Johnson and Savoldi.

Other top stars in action with ICW include: Boston Bad Goy, Nikola, Medlev, King Kaluha, Manager Duke, Chris Evans, Ray Odyssey and the return of Tom "Mr. Chippendale" Brandi.

The most recent feud is between Atlas and Dungeon Master. These two have been interfering in each other's matches so look for an explosion soon.

Another angle is the one with referee Tom Fournini. He is playing a subtle heel ref. It should be interesting if other referees Jack Savage and Scott Dickinson can keep him honest.

## WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Let's get this out of the way first. I finally got my chance to see Brother Love. So here comes the long awaited reaction: As a Christian, I am not offended by the character. Although it is painfully obvious that he is parodying a television preacher, there is never any mention of God and/or Christ. He never mentions religion. So from that standpoint, I approve. It's just that I hate the character. Now that's good, because that is exactly the reaction Titan wants and they don't care whether it comes from a smart fan or a mark, just as long as people don't like him one iota. But, Vince does deserve credit for looking and watching first before jumping into a character like this. He's got most of the bugs worked out of it and from the reaction measured around this house from callers, I am not alone in my assessment of Brother Love.

I couldn't figure it out. I just wasn't getting excited over the SuperSalm 88 Pay Per View event coming from Madison Square Garden on the 29th of August. But with the complete line up in front of me, I think I'm beginning to understand my thoughts. Here is the complete line up for the card.

First off, they announced that Brother Love will be there and will have a guest. That's as far as they went with that. Then we will be privileged to see Rick Rude vs Junk Yard Dog; Bad New Brown vs Ken Patera; Koko B. Ware vs Big Boss Man; the Bolsheviks vs the Powers of Pain; Hercules vs Jake the Snake Roberts; the Rougeaus vs the Bulldogs (more on this later); Dino Bravo vs Don Muraco; Demolition vs Hart Foundation; in the FINAL confrontation between these two (somehow I both like and hate the sound of that) Honky Tonk Man vs Brutus Beefcake; and the main event of Andre DiBlase vs Hogan/Savage. Go over that line up again. Do you realize there's only a couple of matches that are even remotely potentially good matches?

Given that, along with the fact that the card takes place on August 29 (one day before deadline) I've having a lot of reservations about spending \$14.95 to see it. The card takes place on a Monday night which means I'll be working so if I do order it, I won't get to watch it until I get home at 11:30 or even until the next morning which gives very little time to do a complete report on it. This isn't exactly Wrestlemania or a Crockett Cup we're talking about here. Let me know what you think. I'll announce next issue how we've decided to handle it. We could have a panel of readers watch and phone me with their opinions if you like. I could watch it, give the results in the August 30 edition and save opinions and grades till the September 15th issue. You let me know what you all want to see here and that's what we'll do. Fair enough?

This should also be official since I don't see a title change coming before this card: Honky Tonk Man now holds the record (well, as of 8/2) for being the longest reigning Intercontinental champion of all time. Somehow I just knew you'd be overjoyed to hear that news.

The Powers of Pain are now carbon copies of the Road Warriors down to the nth degree. They storm the ring like the Warriors do, sell very little like the Roadies, paint their faces like the Warriors...just everything they do is like the Warriors of years past. Fans in the WWF are going absolutely nuts because they think that they are really seeing the Warriors. That's no big deal here except that over in the NWA, there is a lot of problems being created because of this. The Warriors have lost a bunch of credibility. If Crockett doesn't pop something big over there to get them over again, the Roadies are going to go down

in wrestling history as the inmatators of the POP!

In the Dipstick of the month competition, we listed Vince McMahon as an honorary nomination. Perhaps he should have done better. Not only has he not taken up a collection for Adonis' family, he has not even sent a sympathy card. Mrs. Frankes was quite bitter with reporters when asked about McMahon (how would you feel about a man who destroyed your husband's career then fired him?). All of the other promotions, including Gagne, has sent cards at least, but not the almighty McMahon. Gee Vince...sympathy cards only cost a couple of bucks, and 25¢ for postage. Maybe Linda won't spring for that large of an ammount? The ring the bell ten times for Race who isn't even dead, and since Adonis didn't work for them at the time of his death, he didn't ever exist. Vince may be number one in the promotional race, but he sure finishes low in the human race.

Owen Hart hurt his knee and is back home recovering. Rumors are just flying about him quitting already, but there is nothing to them. He will continue to work under his mask as the Blue Angel.

Speaking of Owen, there's a great way to get him over, fast. As you know, no one in the WWF gets pushed unless they are a steroid monster. So, to get Owen over in a hurry, let Andre do a job for him on a TV taping and this guy would be as big as Hogan. They could do the old Billy Robinson-Kobayashi thing where the unknown gets the pin on what appears to be luck after the newcomer has dazzled the crowd. Andre wouldn't lose anything on something like this, but Owen would be one of the few who have pinned the Giant. Will it happen? No way, but at least it's an option.

We pick on Andre quite a bit, but one of the WWF people explained something to me I hadn't thought about. Wrestling is all he knows. He needs to be traveling and wrestling. Sure he's terrible, but if he were to retire, he would surely die like an old man. Right now he's happy and people still pay to see the eighth wonder. He'll probably wrestle until he does die, or until he is injured so severely he can't continue. Other wrestlers continue to respect him because of his llegendary status. As for not being able to do anything else, what else can a man of his size do? I was also given to understand that money is not the reason he continues to work. It's the kindred and brotherhood that he's after. He really enjoys what he's doing even though he knows he's really bad.

I saw the spot where Hogan is announced as Savage's partner for the 8/29 PPV show. It almost sounded like Hogan was going to turn heel. He called Liz both Randy's and his manager. I think that either that was meant to sound like that so fans could start apreading rumors, or it was just a slip of the tongue. I haven't seen vince do a whole lot of things by accident though, so more than likely he wants to feul some speculation.

On the last MSG card, the Rougeaus completed their heel turn after a lengthy wait. During the Bulldog's match against Demolition, Jacques and Raumond hit the ring and interfered causing the Bulldogs to lose.

After looking at the PPV lineup, there should be little to no mystery about the outcomes of everything but the last two bouts. Everything upto that point is to send a message or to get someone over. Should Beefcake get the strap it would be my guess that Honky Tonk will be sweeping floors for the D team in about another month. Hype will start hot and heavy here in the next week or so.

Bam Bam Bigelow has departed and so that leaves the future of Oliver Humperdink on a very precarious position. A reader spotted Oliver on his last trip to Minneapolis shaking hands and saying goodbye to Rick Rude. That was sometime ago and he has popped up in different places since then. The whole problem with Oliver was that Vince tried to make him a carbon copy of Lou Albano to replace Lou. The fans never accepted it however and Vince seemed content just to eliminate him through natural attrition.

Back to work for Titan is Mean Gene Okerlund who is back doing some of the event center updates, mainly those that have to do with Summerslam \*\*. I guess they didn't like his game show in Hollywood.

The Mid (cough, cough) Rockers are having some trouble with their interviews. On local spots, Marty almsot slips up and calls themselves the Mid er ah and Sean does slip out with Midnight Rockers at which point Marty gives him such a look...They have already been reduced to doing jobs so that may be their payback for earlier transgressions. They aren't complaining though... they're just feeling real lucky to be employed.

Titan went head to head against Crockett in Philadelphia again, this time with the A team vs the Bash show. Crockett had a bigger gate because of its ticket prices, but I understand the two groups drew about the same number of fans. One interesting note (you've already read some in WAPT) had Randy Savge having dinner with Ric Flair. Now that is just a rumor that was only confirmed by one fan, but I'll bet if they did, it was just about the most interesting conversation anyone could ever sit in on.

Hogan returns full time (full time for him at least) tomorrow night 7/31, in Milwaukee with a cage match against Andre. We'll try to have a report next issue as I think we have several readers attending.

PULSE ON PORTLAND  
by Greg Anderson

OWEN'S

The 7/9 Portland card opened with a tag title match between new champs Grappler and Terminator vs the Southern Rockers where the Rockers said they would retire if they lost. Also, the bout would be two out of three falls as an angry Grappler wanted it to be one fall (guess who won the first fall). All four were battling in the ring and ref Sandy Barr pushed Dahl out. While this was happening, Grappler clobbered Scot Peterson from behind and held him while Termie delivered a kick to Scott's throat. Grappler then pinned him. Thesecond fall had all four in the ring again and Peterson rolled Termie up in a sunset flip for the pin fall as Dahl kept Grappler at bay. In the third fall, all four were in again and Barr chased Peterson out. The heels double whipped Dahl and clotheslined him with Termie's sash. Grappler put the sash in his trunks and covered Dahl for the apparent win as Barr counted three. Billy Two Eagles then hit the ring and battled on the baddies. Eagles then pulled the sash out of Grappler's trunks and Barr ordered the bout restarted. Termie looked confused and Dahl took him down in a reverse cradle for the legal pinfall. Termie then put his cobra hold on the Indian for a bit until the Rockers came back for the save. Barr then announced that he was suspending Termie again fpr an indefinite period (wouldn't it be easier for Hazzard to fly his wife and baby in from Texas?).

In an interview this night, it was announced that it was Avalanche's birthday and announcer Don Koss presented Av with a cake "from an old friend." We all know the standard rule about cakes in pro wrestling. That's right, Mike Golden sneaked up and shoved the cake in the big man's face and Avalanche did a great jpb of being furious (actually Av is one of thebetter interviews around today).

On 7/16 Av and Golden had a good time limit brawl. The major angle to take place on the card saw Al Madril interfered in the Steve Dahl-moondog Moretti match. As Moretti held Dahl, Madril finally made contact with his fireball and Dahl did a great job of writhing in pain. Peterson ran out with a towel (in real life, putting a towel on a burn is the worst thing you can do). Dahl later appeared on an interview with his stomach and upper leg bandaged.

Owen's crew worked the undercard of the 8/3 Great American Bash card in Seattle and the card was actually hyped on the Portland TV wrestling show.

HAYNES' OWF

This group continues to struggle along. They will be closing up shop for the rest of the summer and have announced that they will start up again in September. They are obviously reorganizing the promotion as Owen has been blowing them away at every turn. They had a big outdoor show set for Woodburn, OR on 7/17 for a tag team title tournament and battle of the full nelsons between Haynes and Kevin Kelly. Owen then scheduled a head to head card in the smae town with alltickets \$3.00 plus a can of food for a local charity. We have no word on whether Haynes' card came off or not.

Before the hiatus began, Cpl Kirschner was set to wrestle JT Southern on the 7/2 Oregon City card but Southern didn't come out. Joey Jackson took his place and Kirschner squashed him. As Kirsch opened up the bow bag, Southern appeared and smashed into Kirsch from the top rope, beat him up a bit and clotheslined him over the top rope.

Later, Tiger Chung Lee debuted to face Mike Miller. Mike knocked Lee out of the ring whern Coco Samoa came out and handed Kirsch a bag of salt. Tiger tossed the contents into Mike's eyes to get the fall.

Ref Alberto Mendosa spotted the salt on the mat and reversed the decision

The heels doubled on Miller until Brian Adams made the save.

LATE NOTES: The Northwest tag belts were held up between Dahl/Peterson and Buddy Rose/Col DeBeerson 7/15 in Eugene and a rematch was scheduled for the 33rd (Dahl & Peterson regained the straps...a tag team called the Beach Boys (not those from Windy City) were announced for their debut for Owen on 7/23. This "new" team consists of...Oh NO, Tony! We gotta go! tune in next week for the answer. It's a riot! Let's just say the more appropriate name could be the "whales on the beach boy."

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WORLD CLASS

Not a whole lot from here except our lead story from last issue which got a bunch of attention and confirmed that someone from World Class really does read the bulletin. Just to review it, let me quote to you from last issue: "I understand that a wrestler from here (I can't reveal names until a newspaper reports it for fear of libel) was served with an arrest warrant a week ago accusing him of statutory rape (one guess who it was though)."

I got a call from someone who claimed from the office who said, "Just wanted to let you know (that) the Von Erichs weren't involved." ME: "I never said they were." THEM: "No, but you insinuated it." ME: "How?" THEM: "You said, 'one guess who it is'."

I guess that from now on, if you only have one guess as to who a wrestler is, you can pretty well guess a Von Erich.

But in this case, guessing a Von Erich would have been wrong. The man arrested was Adrian Cummings and charged with the alleged offense. Who? Cummings is the Von Erich's personal business manager. I understand that originally another wrestler was also named in the charge, but his name was removed from the complaint. The mother of the girl is still claiming the wrestler (guessing time again) was in on it though.

Steve Cox has popped up here. You'll remember him as Steve Williams' protege in the old UWF. And if you remember that much, it would be impossible to forget how bad he was. Age has not improved him a lot either. He is currently teaming with Micheal Hayes in his battle with the Samoan Swat team who are being called the Freebirds.

A rival group to the WFIA held a mini convention in Dallas this weekend. Actually, the membership of this group were just a bunch of disgruntled WFIA members who decided to get together as friends. No report on the activities yet, but we should have details next time. It's my understanding that the promotion welcomed them with open arms.

Former Dallas Cowboy Harvey Martin (wasn't he the one who was supposed to be in Wrestlemania II?) is now along side Mark Lowrance for color commentary. It's not fair to judge him on account of that handicap though.

Black Bart has returned after a couple week absence. He had gone to Austria to wrestle in a tournament there. He's back now and hardly anyone missed him.

And finally, everyone is wondering how WCCW will handle the Brody tragedy. The answer: Very well. The tribute to him was moving or at least that's how a couple of people have described it to me. The broadcast was today (7/30) in Dallas so the rest of us will see it next week. So far, they are the only group that I have heard of who have publically recognized his death (other than pro Wrestling This Week)..

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

7/14 ANAHEIM (AWA) courtesy of Andy Drago...Rocky Mountain Thunder pinned Daryl Nichols (D)...Tau Logo over Krusher Kruegeroff (D+)...Medusa beat Mimi (D)...Guerrero Bros beat Badd Co by DQ (B+)...Lawler pinned Hennig (B)...NOTES: Attendance 200...Curt pinned Jerry, but match was restarted after another ref informed 1st that Jerry had foot on ropes...Jerry surprised Curt with a roll up...Billy Robinson was in Mimi's corner.

7/13 Waterville, ME (ICW) - courtesy of Dave Sinden...Chris Evans pinned Ray Odyssey...Tom Brandi beat Cactus Jack Foley...Eric Sbraccia over Tom Teel...Atlas/Johnson won battle Royal...Heidi Lee Morgan beat Taboo...Boston Bad Boy/Nikolai Medleu beat Atlas/Johnson by DQ...Cheetah Kid DCOR King Kaluha...Vic Steamboat over Dungeon Master by DQ...Moondog Spike pinned Joe Savoldi...NOTES: Atlas & Johnson last two in battle royal and they decided to split the money...Atlas was caught using chair that Medleu brought in for DQ...Atlas made save in Steamboat DM match...DM & Duke were choking Vic with a whip...Spike got help from heel ref Tom Fournini.

7/15 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of Andy Drago...Iron Sheik over Taylor (D+)...Bossman pinned Casey (C)...Rockers over Conquistadors (A)...Andre pinned Duggan (B)...Warrior sleepered Heenan (D)...Bad News beat Neidhart (B-)...Rude over Jake by COR...NOTES: Attendance sellout...weasel suit was put on Heenan,,,Sheik won by submission with camel clutch...

7/16 GREENSBORO (NWABASH) - courtesy of Larry Lovell & Warren Tobler...Horner/McGraw beat Zbyszko/Morgan...Ron Garvin over Stallion...Murdoch beat Gary Royal...Jimmy over Steiner...R&R beat Sheeps...Oerez pinned Armstrong...Fantastics over ME/Cornette...Sting by DQ over Rotundo...Warriors beat Ivan/Angel (scaffold)...Dusty/Lex/Doc/Nikita/Ellering over Arn/Barry/Flair/Tully/Dillon, war games...NOTES: Ron GARVIN FAKED AN ANKLE INJURY AND WHEN Stallion went to check on it, Ron hands of stoned him...Gary Hart triped Armstrong coming off ropes for win for perez...Sting won when Sullivan and Steiner did run in.

7/17 HERSHEY (WWF) - courtesy of Carl Nitz...Frenchie beat SD...Bravo pinned Bret...Bolsheviks over Bulldogs...Valentine over Muraco...Pain beat Demo by DQ...Houston beat

Joe Le duc...Savage/Beefy beat HTM/DiBiase...NOTES:

Powers got most heat of night and had a brutal match...night of the upset with some strange results...Frenchie subbed for no show Mike Sharpe.

7/21 CINCINNATI (NWABASH) - courtesy of Chris Zavisa...Bugsy beat Morgan...Steiner over Simmons...Perez pinned Horner...R Garvin pinned C. Champion...R&R over Sheeps...Jimmy/Wilbur over Ivan/Angel...Fantastics over Express/Cornette...Rotundo over Doc...Sting/Nikita/Warriors/Luger over Horsemen/JJ War Games...NOTES: ATTENDANCE 4000...no Dusty on card...first half of card dreadful, but last half made up for it...Simmons lost in 1:29...Fantastics/Express best match with Cornette getting pinned.

7/21 BROOKLYN (WWF) - courtesy of John Pantozzi...Steele beat Sheik via DQ...Blue Angel pinned Terry Gibbs...Bravo over Patera...Rougeaus pinned Bees...Bret pinned Danny Davis....NOTES: Attendance 750.

7/25 NEW YORK (WWF) BY SEAN GRANDE...Taylor beat Poffo... (C),,,Rougeaus pinned Rockers (B-)...Bret over Davis (C-)...Muraco drew Valentine (b_)...Demo over Bulldogs (B)...Powers beat Bolsheviks (C+)...Haku over SD (C-)...Andre pinned Duggan (D+)...NOTES: Taylor using scorpion deathlock to win...Rougeaus with clean pin,,,Rougeau interfered in Bulldogs match.

7/22 ST LOUIS (NWABASH) - courtesy of Harry White...Bugsy over Morgan...Perez/Larry Z beat Jimmy/Kendall...Sting drew Rotundo...R&R beat Sheeps...Fantastics beat Express/Jim...Warriors beat Ivan/Angel...Lex/Dusty/Doc/Nikita over Horsemen cage,...NOTES: Attendance 6000...Road Warrior Animal did a DROPKICK on the SCAFFOLD!!! Quadruple figure four on heels by faces in cage.

7/23 PHILADELPHIA (NWABASH) - courtesy of Mike Gendleman...Stener beat Kendall (B)...Larry Z pinned Bugsy (F)...Perez pinned Wilbur (D-)...RR over Sheeps (B)...Ron Garvin over Stallion (C-)...Doc/Jimmy beat Ivan/ANGel (C+)...Sting by DQ over Rotundo (B+)...Fantastics beat Jim/Express (B+)...Dusty/Lex/Nikita/Warriors over Horsemen/JJ War Games...NOTES: Attendance 9500 + ...R&R still over great...Doc worked hard...War games an A- - B+...six of 10 guys bled...Ron did ankle thing again.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Uh oh! Your ever knowing, all seeing, overworked editor goofed. I know, I know, as hard as it is to believe, I will take the blame for this one as I gave the wrong answer to the trivia question last issue (GASP!). I had asked who the two wrestlers were who had stepped in the ring with Muhammed Ali and gave the answer as Antonio Inoki and Gorilla Monsoon. There was one more. The reader who submitted the question did not give me the answer and I took it upon my own computer like brain to come up with the answers. That was my first mistake (it was on down time). The answers should have been Antonio Inoki, Buddy Wolfe and Gorilla. The reader had forgotten about Monsoon. Now that we have that straight, let's attempt to answer last issue's question which asked, "who was Jerry Lawler's first manager?" The answer, Sam Bass.

This issue's question is for history buffs and the very stout of heart: Who were the participants and what was the outcome of the final match ever held in the Minneapolis Auditorium? Answer next issue and as always, there is no prize for a correct response...this is just for fun.

Changes are a comin'...again. Relax, there's not going to be another price increase, but as we go along, there are certain things that have to change, so for the better, some for the worse. I'm afraid that we are losing our Calgary correspondent, Trent Walters after next issue. Trent has decided to start his own bulletin (no information as of yet, but we'll have it as soon as he send us some) and his time is going to be spent working on it. We will try to find a replacement (any volunteers?) so that we can continue to bring you news from up north. If you are interested in helping us out, call me and we'll work something out. Phone number is (309) 289-2662 and the best time to contact me is during the week after 11:30 pm MY TIME. Also, Jeff Bowdren is leaving the sunny state of Florida and moving to Mississippi some time in the next couple of months. He'll be working a replacement so we can continue to bring you Global (hey! I own ONE WHOLE SHARE in that company and I want to see it turn a profit...they'll spend more in postage to let me know how much I made - if I ever make anything - than what dividends I do earn). We'll keep you informed.

Last issue I promised to inform you of some other very good bulletins on the market and so here they are...Bob Closson puts out Mat View and it comes out when ever there's enough news to fill an issue. Cost is 50¢ and that's about the best bargain around. His address is 2115 Clifton Ave, Springfield, OH 45505. Bob, you'll remember used to do the highly acclaimed MAT RESULTS.

Ron Evans does another bulletin that is highly recommended. It's called The Wrestling INformer and it goes for just \$2.00 per issue. It covers the mat wars in the pacific northwest and includes Ron's original comic strip Arman RA! Address for Ron is 2312 W 23rd Place, Eugene, OR 97405.

Jammie Ward and Brian Tramel combine for the Squared Circle which is one of the longest running bulletins around. It covers Memphis like none other along with results and commentary. Jammie handles the subscriptions and his address is 2824 Quaint St, Secane, PA 19018. Forgive me guys, but I can't remember the price (they just had a price change) so drop them a line and find out.

In addition to these, there are several new bulletins that have just come out and I'm seeing their very first copies. I'll review those next time.

One more reader request to round out the page...NELS LOOSER, 1839 Spruce Ct., White Bear Lake, MN 55110 has a video tape list with over 100 VHS tapes for sale or trade. It's free for the asking.

For those of you who have written in asking that I list something, please do me a favor: Put your requests on a 3 x 5 index card. They don't get lost that way (sheets of poster board 3 FEET by 5 feet could get lost around here but for some reason, index cards stick around). I try to do two or three (at the most) requests per issue because more than that seem to not draw any response. There is no cost for reader requests, but you must be a subscriber to have something listed.

SPECIAL NOTE TO CHICAGOLAND READERS: The high flying, much talked about Windy City Wrestling Promotion returns to the Chicago Amphitheatre on Friday night, August 12 (we listed the wrong date last time) for what looks to be a top notch card. Abdullah the Butcher will be replacing Bruiser Brody on the card and taking on Nord the Barbarian in a cage. Also scheduled on the card will be Bam Bam Bigelow, the Original Midnight Express, Paul E Dangerously, Buddy Rose and Doug Sommers and Steve Regal who defends his WCW title against Colonel DeBeers. Now here's some more good news: Promoter Sam DiCero has agreed to make a block of choice ringside seats available to FORUM readers who want to attend the show! Last time they were at the Amphitheatre, they drew over 4000. For more information, you can contact Jeff Siegel at (312) 491-1698 or call the Windy City Hotline at (312) 978-7317. If this show was on a Saturday or Sunday night (hint, hint), I'd be there myself!

WNCQ radio in Watertown, NY recently had Dr. D. David Shults as a guest on a call in show before he wrestled Sgt. Slaughter there that night. He was tremendous, especially when he took calls from irate listeners. Some lady called him and told him a day's work on the farm would kill him. He responded by telling her that New Yorkers didn't know what a farm is. She said something about riding a tractor and he told her riding a tractor wasn't work, that plowing fields by hand like he did was. Another highly intelligent humanoid called and accused him of being on welfare. He told him he paid more in taxes than that guy earned in a year. There were two things that really stood out about the show. One, Shults is great at creating heat among fans, even better than I remembered him, and two, it's scary how many people called that show and believed wrestling was real. There's been a lot of talk lately about how most fans who go to the matches know it's "fake" (I hate that term) but pretend to believe it anyway. Not one called mentioned that word. I have stood outside an arena listening to comments of fans coming out and I think a lot of people really believe everything they see. I don't have enough room to go into it all here, but maybe we will in a future issue.

Next time, I have a reader with some old magazines and stuff for the person who answers next issue's trivia question. Details next time. Also we'll have details on our second subscription drive. The first one we had took us from just 50 some readers to over 125. That was a couple of years ago. I'm still workign on the details which will no doubt make you wonder why I never do anything normal.

Dave Meltzer is scheduled to appear on Entertainment Tonight on 8/2 & 8/3 along with Roddy Piper to talk about the death of Bruiser Brody.

That about takes care of another issue. We should be back almost on schedule next time. The deadlines that fall on the weekend make it hard to put in the mail with the postage meter and the business hours of the places that can reduce copy for us. Sooo...until then, see ya!

WRESTLING FORUM V3114
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